KISS®

MAGAZINE

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Winter 1992

CANADA'S HOTTEST KISS MAGAZINE

From The Editor

Yes, we're back for another issue! We've been having a bit of a difficult time keeping on top of everything that's going on especially because of our next Kiss Convention, Kissteria IV happening on June 20th, but don't worry, we'll get it together.

We were lucky to catch up with Kiss in Toronto on May 6th - look for a full report next issue with exclusive pictures! We were also able to get full in-depth interviews with Bruce Kulick!

Without letting the cat out of the bag, Dark Light Magazine will be undergoing a very major change in the next two issues: be sure to stay tuned!

One of the coolest things in this issue is our exclusive interview with **Gene Simmons**. We had the rare opportunity to talk with Gene while the band was in the studio recording new LP "Revenge." Be sure to check it out! Also, please pay special attention to the cover artwork that was submitted by professional Montreal artist: blackwell. From now on, we will be spotlighting blackwell's work in upcoming issues.

So without any further ado, let's get rolling with this issue.

Hope ya like it!

GREG J. ORTBACH
Editor

CONTENTS

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In This Issue...

From The Editor.....2.

KISS Update.....4.

KISS 1992!.....5.

Up Close With Gene.....6.

KISS Centrefold.....10.

Collection Connection.....17.

KISSTERIA IV Convention.18.

Next Time.....19.

DARKLIGHT CANADA'S HOTTEST KISS ORGANIZATION

KISS Updates

Here's what has been going on lately in Kissworld...

"Revenge", Kiss' 24th album is all set to be released here in Canada on Friday, May 22nd! The album boasts the following 12 tracks:

•UNHOLY
•TAKE IT OFF
•TOUGH LOVE
•SPIT
•GOD GAVE
ROCK 'N' ROLL TO YOU II
•DOMINO
•HEART OF CHROME
•THOU SHALT NOT
•EVERY TIME
I LOOK AT YOU
•PARALYZED
•I JUST WANNA
•CARR JAM 1981

The album was produced by Bob Ezrin (Ed: look for the interview with Bob in this issue!)

The video for "Unholy" was released on MTV's Head Banger's Ball on April 18th. It is easily one of Kiss' most diverse videos yet! The clip features Gene looking more evil than he did with the makeup! It's also directed by **Pantera's** video director. Check it out!

We have just received word that the next Kiss video and single will be "I Just Wanna", the Paul Stanley "Summertime Blues" party tune!

Kiss is currently in England with their Hot In The Shade stage performing new tunes from "Revenge." Stay tuned to our next issue for full details!

And finally, KISSTERIA IV: The Canada Kiss Convention is making its return to London Ontario on Saturday, June 20th! The day promises to be a memorable one, so if you're in the area, don't miss it! In addition to the Kiss Dealers, we will have a special Kiss Theatre, Kiss Museum, Giveaways, and a special Collector's Item for the first 100 people through the door! Tickets are available in advance for $5.00 and are $6.00 at the door. Write to: KISSTERIA IV Tickets c/o Dark Light Magazine: P.O. Box 409, Stn. B, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 4W1. For additional information, please call the KISS Hotline at: (519) 641-2883.

UP CLOSE WITH GENE SIMMONS

DL: How are things going in the studio?

GS: Really horrendous, uh it's not a very good record and I'm giving it up. (Laughs) I'm teasing. Anytime anybody asks anybody that about an album "Oh it's the best one we've ever done" and all this crap. It seems to be going well, you really can't tell because it's only... We really can't tell because it's just the beginning. You know the songs are in their formative stages now, we've only got basics like drums, one or two guitars and a bass. Uh, it seems to be a rockin' album. Much stronger than what we've done before.

DL: That's good. How has Kiss' recording process as a band changed?

GS: It's still basically the same. We get together in the studio with the band and we usually only end up keeping the drums, and then going over all the guitars.

DL: As far as you as a writer goes, do you come up with lyrics first, or the music?

GS: Boy those are three questions in one. Well, in the beginning it was just strum your guitar and try to come up with licks, sometimes on bass, sometimes on keyboard, and then try to gradually figure out what to sing about. But lately I've had sort of catch phrases, and then I'd try and figure out what would fit. Some of the songs start out as titles first, and then I have to find the right lick. You know, the right thing. 'Cause you can write a song title, and sometimes it doesn't work.

DL: Do you have any album titles that you've been throwing around?

GS: "Revenge". Revenge exclamation point.

DL: Is that set, or just an idea?

GS: It's pretty set. It's also a good name for a band.

DL: Somebody wrote in to the fanclub and said that "Legacy" would be a good title.

GS: It's sounds like it's over though doesn't it? Legacy sounds like the past - almost like a boxed set. You know "they're dead now, Legacy, here's what they left behind!" Doesn't it sound like that?

DL: I think so!

GS: Kill that guy okay!

DL: How are you guys going to top last tour's stage? You always go bigger and better, but that's going to have to be pretty big!

GS: Yeah. Well there are a couple ideas. One of them, you know those Japanese robot toys that start off as cars and then all of a sudden...they start off being the size of a peanut and then they unfold and become mammoth and big. That's the only thing I'll say about the next show. It grows, and you don't have to rub it.

DL: With your upcoming solo albums, you and Paul. They're coming up in the near future right?

GS: No.

DL: We were quoted the year 1993.

GS: He lied.

DL: When you write songs, do you separate the Kiss songs from the solo songs while they are being written?

GS: Yeah, there's a song that I just wrote with Bob Dylan that really might not be for Kiss, but maybe I'll put it on a solo record.

DL: How did you feel about Cher doing "A World Without Heroes?", It turned out really cool!

GS: Yeah, I thought she did a good job - not as good as I do - no, just kidding.

DL: Are you in a small studio this time around like the last time?

GS: Bigger in some ways and smaller in others. The control room is smaller. But they're are other rooms where you can sort of lounge. I'm in a lounge area now. But there's only one room there are no other studios. You don't have to put up with anybody else and you don't have to hear like disco music coming from down the hall - (singing) "she's gone motherf**ker!"

DL: I've got a history question for you now when Kiss was just starting to take off. What was the actual moment for you when you realized that Kiss had made it?

GS: Well, the band actually hadn't made it at all. We were doing our very first show in Canada before the record even

came out. We were filling in for a tour, the guy's name was Michael Quattro - Suzy Quattro's brother...No, oh I had to do it! And the idea was just to get us out on tour and play some shows. And the people didn't have a f**king clue who we were, and the very first night we played was in a place called South Edmonton. We played in a school cafeteria. It was a college and the stage was a lot of lunch tables put together, and we put the whole show, whatever we had, on top of the tables. Nobody had a clue what Kiss was, and all that stuff, and here we are drooling blood on their lunch tables, blowing stuff up, and people are running into each other "Aaaaah My God!" Nobody knew what was going on they thought they were going to get (singing) "Dancing dancing, dancing machine!" the Jackson Five or something and we show up and it was like "What rock did you crawl out from under?" But to answer your question, that night we went back to the hotel and there was this girl - it always comes back down to this! (laughs) There was a girl with green hair. She was lovely, very very pretty girl. And that was my first tour groupie. I had some before but she was like the first real girl who didn't have a f**king clue what my name was, and she didn't care. She just wanted to f**k me because I was in a band, and I thought that was so romantic. And so I couldn't remember her name but I put her name on the solo record. Hello to green hair from (singing) "is this the girl with the green hair from Edmonton, da, da da da da, da!" But as far as I was concerned - that's it, we made it! I've got all the stuff you're supposed to have. We're doing encores, I've got a girl after the show HEY, it doesn't get any better than this!

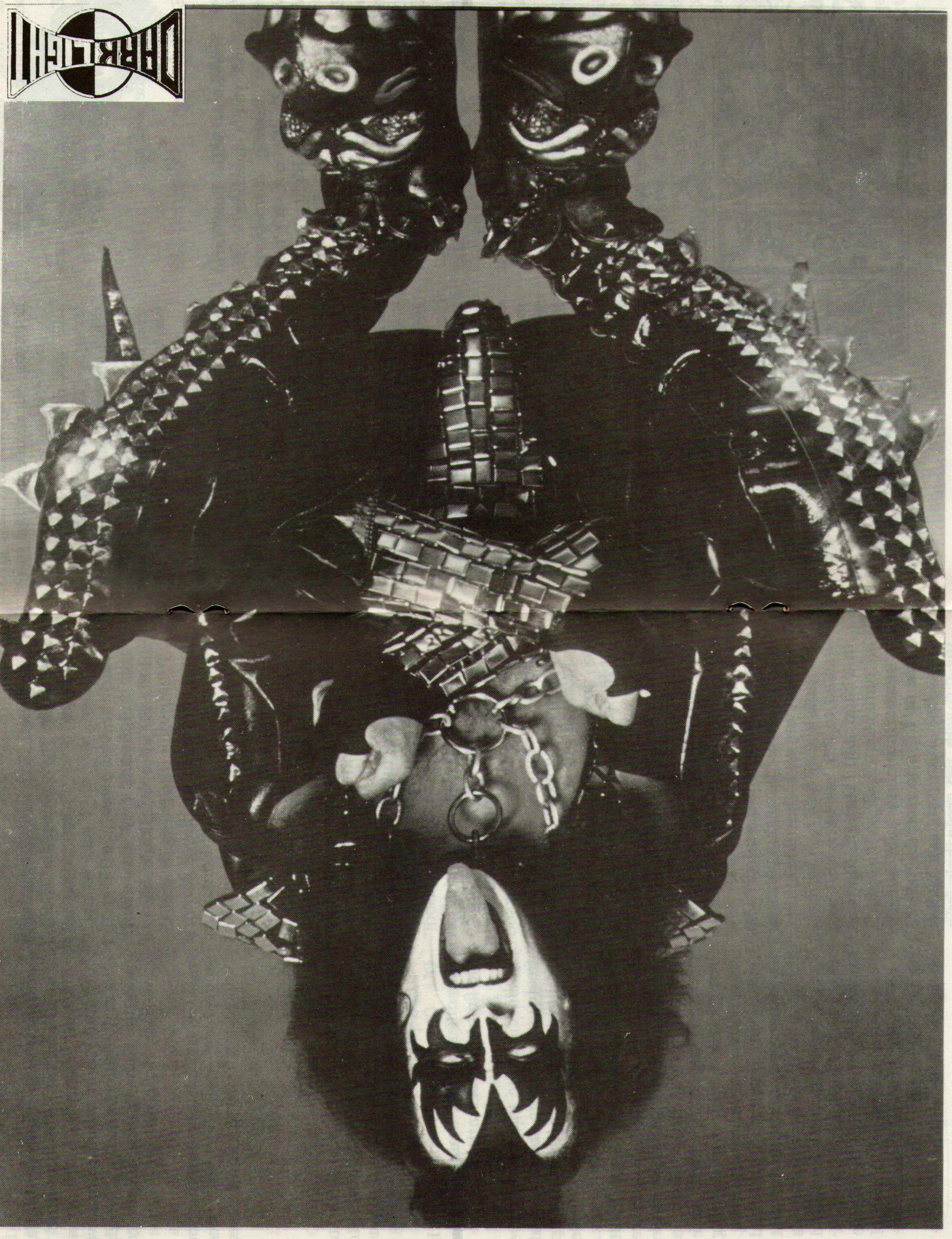
-HEY wait I gotta tell you something, a Canadian just walked in! You want to interview Bob Ezrin?

DL: Sure!

BE: Well that's it! Nice talkin' to ya. (laughs) I gotta go back to work. What do you want to know, real quick!

DL: Okay, how is working with Kiss different now, than when you did first in the seventies?

BE: We have to take many more frequent bathroom breaks, and we have to watch - if we stay up too terribly late, you know Gene starts to fall over and stuff so... (Gene laughs in b.g.) It's difficult because they're so old you see (laughs). It's very much the same as it's always been. He's a complete maniac - if you were here you would see that being around us is a dangerous thing. And it was dangerous then and it's dangerous still now. I'm just trying to be polite because there's foreign people present here, and we want to make a proper impression. But after they leave we're gonna tell you what kind of - no - what kind of shmucks we really think we are.


DARKLIGHT

DL: Well, that's great, that's gonna make a good quote.

BE: Okay. You're welcome, now get out. Where's our food? (laughs) What's your name?

DL: My name is Greg.

BE: Okay Greg!

GS: You know with Bob Ezrin "Can I ask you a question?" you think it's leading someplace, "What's this?" It's not, It's like "What's your name? Right, yeah."

BE: I was just checking because I know a lot of Canadians named Greg.

DL: Oh do ya?

BE: Yeah.

DL: That's okay, I didn't think it was such a popular name.

BE: You didn't?

DL: No.

BE: Of course it was a popular name, or they wouldn't have given it to you. Or didn't they like you?

DL: Well they didn't - they always thought I'd outgrow the Kiss thing.

BE: Ahhh-ah, and how long have you been in this?

DL: I'd say thirteen, fourteen years.

BE: Really?

DL: Yeah.

BE: No shit!
DL: Corrupted from youth. But in a good way.

BE: What do you do now?

DL: Well I just finished high school, and I've been doing Kiss conventions, I do my own magazine, I do a fanclub. Actually we're the world's only monthly Kiss fanclub.

BE: Really?

DL: Yeah, we were also the very first to have an information hotline that Kiss has been on.

BE: That's because Canadians are always at the forefront. You know that don't ya?

DL: I do now!

BE: Yeah. We're always - did you know that the blues started in Canada? (Gene laughs in b.g.) I told this to Gene that the Canadians invented the blues. This is the truth. Rock and roll came from Canada - anybody can tell you that. Penicillin, Insulin, the telephone was invented in Canada! Think about it! The world's leader in telecommunications? Canada! Who's got the best medicine? Canada! And schools? Canada. (from background: Best skies? Canada! Laughs) Thank you. Best skies? Canada. And not only that. If it weren't for the fact that we live next door to America, we'd have the biggest music industry too! (from background: "And the best record producer ever - Bob Ezrin - Canada") Canada! (from back-ground: Bruce Fairburn is also pretty good yeah) Bob Rock is good too - yeah we've got some - that's right! Per capita, we've got more hit record producers than America, don't we? (From background: - murmuring "No, he's from Canada eh? Yeah, eh! Watch yourself!")

GS: I know where the "eh" stuff came from.

BE: Oh really?

GS: Yeah, originally Canada was called CND. And somebody would say, "where you from" they'd go "Cnd eh!" "Cnd eh!"

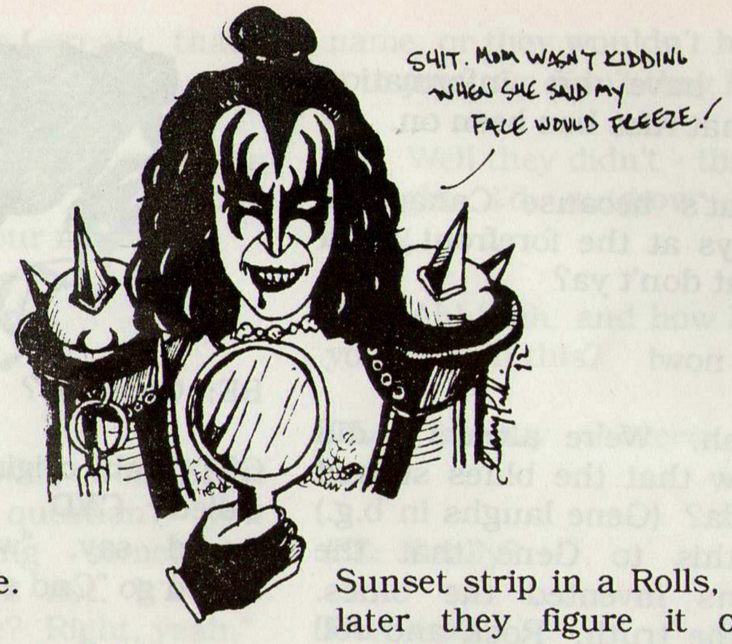
BE: Get out of here! Isn't he cute?...

DL: Oh Gene, there's something that I've wanted to ask you for a long time. You always mention that you didn't drive, and you take limos everywhere. Is that still so now?

GS: I drive now.

DL: Oh you do?

GS: Yeah. (laughter) For a while, we did the whole twenty-four hour bodyguard routine and you know, after a while it gets silly. You can't even go to the bathroom without someone "Oh, I'll wipe your ass for you, don't worry!" and after a while you become an invalid you know? So we got rid of all of that, I mean years and years ago. But, I finished school and then Kiss happened. It happened very very fast. So, from my twenty-fourth year on, or my twenty-third year on, I was like flying around the world, so I never got a chance to



learn how to drive.

DL: When did you pick it up?

GS: Um, right before Crazy Nights, around then. Eighty-five or so.

DL: If I could ask, what kind of car do you have?

GS: I've had a couple. The first car I bought was a Rolls. (laughter b.g.) I never took a driving test - they just gave me a licence. I haven't taken a test to this day. Yeah, the driving teacher knew somebody or the president signed some who the f**k knows what, but we did take some lessons. (b.g. murmur) Oh, I drive like a grandma.

DL: I'm sure the guy was just afraid to say anything to you.

GS: Well, you've got to cut through the crap and...

DL: Get to the point!

GS: Get to the point. So now, I have trucks, because you know, when you drive up and down Sunset strip in a Rolls, sooner or later they figure it out, than you've got a caravan following you home. So, I've got trucks now. I've got a Range Rover, and a Pathfinder.

DL: Sounds kind of like Red Surf.

GS: Ohhhh, I'm sorry. I hope you never saw that.

DL: I saw it once.

GS: Ohh, I apologize.

DL: It was no big deal.

GS: You're right.

DL: Any movie plans in the future, or are you just too busy with Kiss?

GS: I'm putting off all that stuff for a couple of years. It's funny, yesterday "Designing Women" called and wanted me to appear on the show, "Swamp Thing," all this stuff. All that's being put aside. I really want this next album and next tour to be special. All of it.

DL: Well that sounds good. It that the same with Simmons Records?

GS: Simmons Records has been put on hold - that sound you're hearing is my food being brought in on the back of a truck (laughs). Simmons Records is being put on hold - it's still alive, but House Of Lords is now being released through PolyGram, Gypsy Rose is about to sign with another label. Silent Rage, I don't know what's going to happen with them, but we haven't had luck. Some of the other artists that I was working with, Liza, other artists are all being put in other areas, other labels to give me more time to work with this - (spoken with funny voice: my love, my own (laughs).

DL: Is the album, when is it slated for hopeful release? Like January, February?

GS: The first quarter.

DL: Well I think you're going to give everybody something to look forward to. Especially after hearing "God Gave Rock & Roll," with you and Paul singing together! The whole feel of it really did feel like the Kiss we grew up with.

GS: Yeah, it feels good, it felt good to us too. I think quite honestly a lot of it had to do with Bob Ezrin forcing us to be ourselves. And uh, and us letting Bob force us. You know what I, you know what I mean by that?

DL: Yeah, I do.

GS: Sometimes when a girl says "no", and she really means "yes", she wants you to force her to realize that the word no means yes.

DL: Tell us about the B.C. Rich bass too.

GS: It's called The Punisher. It'll be out by January or February - just the first model for press and so on. And then by the spring they'll start manufacturing it. It's cool, looks real cool.

DL: That's good. What kind of pickups are you using?

GS: Well, they're going to have different configurations. There will be one with a humbucker, then there will be EMGs, I'm less concerned with that, than I am with the body style and the wood. Because the truth is different people like different pickups number one, and number two it's really more the feel of the bass, cause once you plug into an amp, let's face it - turn it up, and it's either gonna rock your socks or it's not. I mean, a lot of this musician stuff comes from a lot of "contemplating your navel" stuff. It's all bullshit really. There's only one or two different styles of bass and guitar, and that's it.

DL: In your words, can you tell the fans exactly what the band is up to right now?

GS: We're in the studio recording the next record which is going to be called "Revenge" - It's coming out the first quarter of this next

year, probably by March, certainly by April. Some of the news is, we're going to South America to do some stadium shows before the album comes out. Then we'll go to England with the big sphinx, "Hot In The Shade" show which they still haven't seen. Actually we'll take that through Europe, and uh, "Revenge" the next Kiss record, our twenty-fourth - God bless us all, has twelve songs on it, including "God Gave Rock & Roll." Songs about equally written 50/50 pretty much between Paul and myself. We'll both sing on each other's things. Let's see, what else? Eric Carr is in the hospital, still being taken care of. He is doing okay but, I'm sure he would appreciate everybody's prayers, I mean, this has gotten a lot more serious than anybody thought it would, so that's where that is. And uh, the drummer on this album is Eric Singer. And, what else? That's enough news for now.

ED: Eric Carr passed away six weeks after this interview was conducted.

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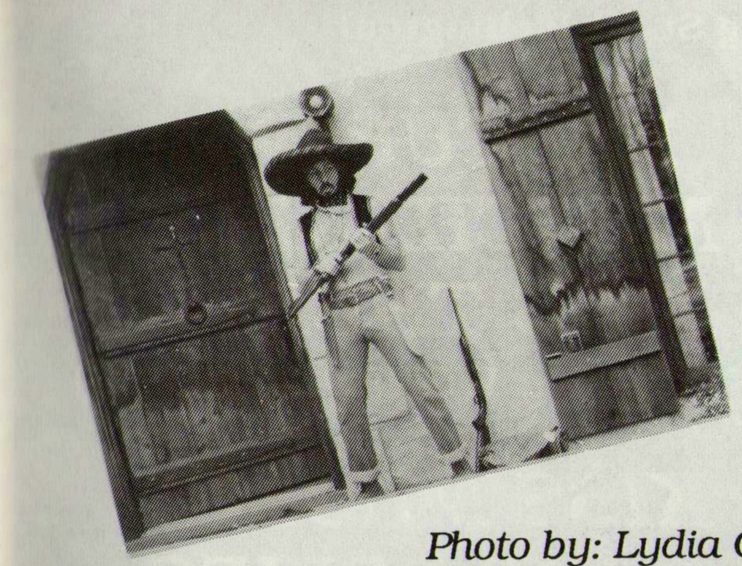

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[ ] 4. Peter drumming in one of his 1st bands "Sounds Of Soul" 1967

[ ] 5. Peter without makeup in Hotel room after Japan tour 1978

[ ] 6. Peter & Lydia before Kiss was discovered 1973

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THE CANADA KISS CONVENTION

Next Time:

Well what can I say? Another issue of Dark Light Magazine and another Kiss album completed...wow! Next time we will have a Dark Light exclusive interview with Eric Singer! We will also have another installment of First Kiss, and an awesome look at Kiss' stop in Toronto on May 6th with exclusive stories and pictures! In the meantime, we've been told by Bruce Kulick that Kiss' next single will be "I Just Wanna" and you can expect it to be hitting the airwaves the first week of June! Thanks so much for reading and stay tuned...it's getting bigger and better!

TAKE IT OFF

Dark Light Magazine would like to thank all of the people who help to make our job easier with this mag...
Special thanks to: Ken Gullic & The Neon Glow, Brian Berry, Ivar Hamilton, Ron Harwood and PolyGram Records Canada, Martin Moore & Quality Graphics, Mercury Records, all of the other Kiss Fanzines, Radisson Hotel London Centre, M.E.A.T. Magazine & Drew Masters, Goldmine Magazine, AMIGA, and of course Kiss! You guys kick! Thanks!

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Produced by Bob Ezrin

This album is dedicated to the memory of Eric Carr